



**EASTERN ASIA:** Across most of China, warm, dry weather aided summer crop maturation and harvesting and early winter crop planting. Temperatures averaged 1 to 3 degrees C above normal across northeastern and north-central China, with the highest temperatures ranging from 30 to 34 degrees C in the North China Plain. From September 11 to 14, moisture from Typhoon Saomai produced heavy showers (75-200 mm) and flooding across Japan and the Korean Peninsula. Central Honshu, Japan was hardest hit on September 11 by torrential showers (300-500 mm) and associated flooding. On September 15, Saomai made landfall in southern South Korea, with sustained winds of 65 knots (75 mph). The heavy showers slowed rice maturation and caused some rice damage across South Korea and central Japan. Temperatures averaged 1 to 2 degrees C below normal across the Korean Peninsula and 1 to 4 degrees C above normal across Japan. During August, near- to above-normal rainfall stabilized summer crop yield potentials in most of Manchuria. August rainfall was variable in the North China Plain, with near- to above-normal rain in Shandong, northern Anhui, and Jiangsu, but below-normal rain in southern Hebei and northern Henan. In most of central and southern China, above-normal showers maintained adequate moisture for late double-crop rice and summer crops. Below-normal rainfall, however, stressed rice and sugarcane in Guangxi and western Guangdong. Remnants of tropical storms brought much-above-normal rainfall to South Korea, possibly damaging filling to maturing rice. In North Korea, rainfall averaged near to slightly below normal, reducing moisture supplies for summer crops. In Japan, below-normal August rainfall and above-normal temperatures favored filling rice.